



City of San Francisco

Proclamation

Expressing the City of San Francisco's support for the implementation of California Legislation 2011 Assembly Bill 199 to include World War II in the Philippines in the history curriculum for Grades 10 and 11 in California and for the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015.

WHEREAS, the Philippines was a Commonwealth of the United States during the outbreak of World War II on December 8, 1941 until its independence in 1946; and

WHEREAS with the threat of an impending war with the Empire of Japan, the United States Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) was created on July 26, 1941 by a military order of the U.S. War Department, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt which federalized all organized military units in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Philippines into the service of the United States Army under the command of General Douglas MacArthur; and

WHEREAS the total number of USAFFE troops scattered throughout the Philippines consisted of 150,000 comprised of 119,000 Philippine Commonwealth troops, 19,000 American soldiers and 12,000 Philippine Scouts (Filipino soldiers under the U.S. Army with American Officers); and

WHEREAS despite massive diseases and starvation as a result of the Europe First Policy, the USAFFE troops performed a delaying action that disrupted the timetable of the Imperial Japanese Army of 52 days, defending the Bataan peninsula for 99 days, enabling the Allied forces to harness the necessary resources that eventually led to their ultimate victory; and



WHEREAS, the war in the Philippines is an important part of American/World history and therefore should be part of the history curriculum in California and the rest of the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby urge the California Department of Education to implement the 2011 Assembly Bill 199 in order to include World War II in the Philippines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors do hereby support the passage of Senate Bill 1555 and House Resolution 2737, directing the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to make appropriate arrangements for the award of a single Congressional Gold Medal to the Filipino Veterans of World War II in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

Dated this:

April 11, 2016

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